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SOURCE Soviet newspapers as indicated. (Information requested.)

SOVIETS STRESS NEED FOR ECONOMY

LOWER COSTS AND INCREASED PRODUCTION -- Sovetskaya Litva, No 176, 27 Jul 48

A one-percent reduction in production costs in enterprises of all-Union and Republic ministries in 1947 yielded a saving of 1,800,000,000 rubles. Production costs of commodities manufactured in 1950 will total 205 billion rubles. In other words, the country will turn out more than 560,000 rubles' worth of produce per minute.

Soviet miners will produce 952 tons of coal per minute in 1950; metallurgists, 96 tons of steel; blast-furnace operators, 78 tons of pig iron; textile workers, more than 19,000 meters of fabric; and shoemakers, 1,200 pairs of shoes. "Pariizhskaya Kommuna" estimated that if it saved one square decimeter of leather on each pair of shoes it could turn out an additional 100,000 pairs of shoes.

The State will save about 160 billion rubles between 1946 and 1950, by lowering production costs. This figure is only slightly less than one half of the 1948 budget.

LITHUANIAN ENTERPRISES LACK FINANCIAL CONTROL -- Sovetskaya Litva, No 176, 27 Jul 48

The Ministry of the Timber Industry Lithuanian SSR overspent about one million rubles from the wage fund during the first 5 months of 1948. Enterprises of the Ministry of the Light Industry Lithuanian SSR spent 1,007,000 rubles unnecessarily in the first quarter of 1948 while the trade network and trusts of the Ministry of Trade expended 522,000 rubles, which resulted in a deficit of 510,000 rubles instead of the projected 400,000 rubles. The Vil'nyus trade network alone sustained a loss of 480,000 rubles.

Increased turnover of inventory and reinvestments are highly important for the national economy and may free a billion rubles in a single day. Piling up of surplus and nonessential materials is one of the causes of deferred repayments of state loans and failure to fulfill obligations. The Ministry of the Food Industry

43

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has had 10 million rubles' worth of surplus raw materials in stock for several years. The Ministry of the Local Industry has held 2-3 million rubles' worth of products above the amount allowed.

The Kaunas Motor Vehicle Repair Plant suffered a loss of 299,000 rubles in 1947 and 32,000 rubles in the first quarter of 1948, due to poor financial discipline. The treasurer of this plant received the combined salaries of an engineer, typist, and economist. Workers' wages were raised above the standard level, cost accounting was neglected, and control over expenses was lax.

When Semashko and Petrulis were directors of the Kaunas "Vodokanal" Trust in 1947, they permitted an overexpenditure of 225,000 rubles from the wage fund, including 176,400 rubles for overtime work, some of which was never done. Lack of adequate control over expenditures led to the embezzlement of 69,000 rubles.

Approximately 20 persons are currently holding more than one office in the Ministry of Public Health. The Ministry is also guilty of having illegally spent 185,000 rubles. A certain Matukas, who has never had medical training, held the job of a doctor and laboratory worker, receiving 1,350 rubles per month, while a Comrade Gavronskis was simultaneously a legal counselor and director of a library at 2,000 rubles per month. The application of cost-accounting is one of the decisive factors in completing the Fourth Five-Year Plan on schedule. (From article by A. Sinayev.)

ZAPOROZH'YE OBLAST NEEDS GREATER FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 179, 30 Jul 48

The Zaporozh'ye Oblast newspaper Bol'shevik Zaporozh'ya has published an article calling for greater financial discipline in enterprises of the Oblast.

The author of the article, Ya. Soroka, an official of the Zaporozh'ye Oblast office of the State Bank, stated that some plants operate without a State subsidy, including Refractory Materials Plant and the Plant imeni Voykov, which saved more than 2,500,00 rubles over the plan. The Ferroalloys Plant, the Locomotive-Repair Plant and the Electrodes Plant saved 5 million rubles, although they are still obtaining State subsidization.

However, there are still a number of enterprises operating at a loss. Among these are the Metal Structures Plant (director, Zhuk), a number of enterprises of Local Industry, and the industrial combines of Melitopol', Osipenko, and Kanemsko-Dneprovskiy, which are not fulfilling their quotas for specified assortments.

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